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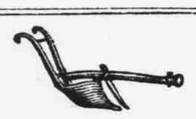
AGRICULTURAL.



To our Agricultural Readers.

In this department of our paper, we expect to be governed in our selections principally by the maturer judgment and practical experience of others. Yet we feel (believing in the maxim that knowledge is power) that even we, on general principles, can urge the necessity of reducing farming to a science, and studying and applying it as such. We are all aware, that to produce a model work, it is necessary that we should fully understand the capacity of our materials, the proper instruments to use, and the most effective manner of operating. And what is this but science,—a knowledge of what is to be done and the best mode of accomplishing it.

Many have been led to sneer at, and repudiate scientific farming, because they confounded theoretical farming with practical or genuine scientific farming, whereas the one is but an element of the other; and indeed, the only dangerous element. Such a one has the same claim to the title of a scientific farmer, as a person would have to that of scientific watch-maker, who knew the names of the various parts, and fully comprehended its construction, and yet had never made a watch. He is really scientific in his understanding of what is to be done, but totally deficient in the higher, because productive, element of science, the most effectual manner of doing it. He is wanting in that department of science, which though essential is so often denied as a portion of it, practice. For although he may be unconscious of the fact, it is nevertheless true, that the successful practical farmer is always in a degree a scientific farmer. He has gained that knowledge which he so successfully applies, by submitting his own experience to the test of reason and intellect, and thereby deducing those useful rules, which he might have more readily gained through the experience of others. The farmer should think of these things, and if he finds them true, at once bring to his own use and aid, the judgment and experience of others. Try all things and cleave unto that which is good.

From the Journal of Agriculture.

THE GRAMMAR OF AGRICULTURE.

BY PROF. J. J. MAPES, NEWARK, N. J.

In commencing a series of articles on agriculture, with the view of *posting up* our readers in all matters of improvement connected with this subject, it seems necessary to build a foundation for the structure; and this we propose to do by giving a plain didactic description of first principles.

Every art has its grammar, without a knowledge of which the student can make but indifferent progress. Thus, *drawing* is said by painters to be the *grammar* of their art; and, however great may be the natural talent or taste of the aspirant, without an academic knowledge of drawing, he can never rise to great eminence.

The grammar of the farmer's art is to be found embraced in a few of Nature's laws, embodied in the sciences of chemistry and natural philosophy; simple in their character, and when offered in proper form, readily understood.

Before entering on the subject proper, let us say one word about that most unpopular word, *science*, which the slothful-minded condemn, rather than investigate.

Science simply means knowledge, reduced to a system, so as to be readily taught and easily understood. Thus it will be seen, that to render any study simple, and to rid it of perplexities, is to reduce it to a *science.*

With this fact in view, it may be hoped that our readers will not be afraid of attacking even a scientific description or rationale, should such be offered.

When we commenced our operations as a practical and scientific farmer, some of our neighbors very properly demanded our credentials before we should commence to teach others. These are now before the public. We have made analyses of the soils of more than one hundred farms, and advised modes of culture founded on such analysis; and in no one instance, without increasing the amount of profits to the farmer *more than one-third.*

With these credentials, then, we appear before our present readers. These results have not arisen from any new discoveries of our own; but simply, by collecting facts well known, and applying them in accordance with chemical laws; and we now promise our present readers, that if they will follow our articles carefully, they will be able, by the help of an analysis of their soils, to produce similar results on their own farms.

To those who would object to being taught by reading, let us say—that we do not appear before them as a theorist, but strictly as a *practical farmer;* and the reports so often published by agricultural societies of our crops, *entitles us to the appellation* If, then, admitted to enter the lists as a *practical farmer,* it cannot injure one's ability, *as a teacher,* to have studied those sciences on which the success of agriculture must depend.

Soils and plants are composed of two classes of materials or constituents, and these may be known by the terms *organic* and *inorganic;* and the strict meaning of these terms and the properties of each class of material must be clearly and distinctly understood before the farmer can know the source from which he can, with most economy, procure his manures.

If a plant be burned in an open vessel, the *organic* constituents of the plant will pass off into the atmosphere, and the ashes alone will be left; and these contain the *inorganic* constituents of the plant. If the ashes be analyzed, they will be found to be composed of silica, lime, magnesia, oxide of iron, oxide of manganese, potash, soda, chlorine, sulphuric acid and phosphosric acid. These ten inorganic constituents of plants will be fully treated of in the next number; our present purpose being to speak of the *organic* constituents alone, and of these only for the purpose of illustrating certain laws of nature, which should be early understood in the study of agriculture. Asking the reader not to be frightened at a few new words, (for as few as practicable will be used,) we would state that the *organic part* of plants is composed of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen—and these constitute from 90 to 98 per cent. of their weight. *Carbon,* when separated from other substances, is black, and is then more generally known by the name of charcoal; if burned, it combines with oxygen, and passes off into the atmosphere as *carbonic acid,* a colorless gas; and thus, if a vegetable be burned, rotted, fermented, or digested in the stomach of an animal, its carbon is always converted into carbonic acid gas, and in this form pervades nature's great store-house, the atmosphere, ready to be taken up again by growing plants, and to be formed into new growths. Thus it may be understood, that when the crops of 1851 shall decay, and their organic parts shall pass into the atmosphere, in the form of *carbon,* oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen, they will furnish these materials for the production of the crops of 1852; and the carbonic acid gas will enter plants, deposit its carbon to increase their bulk, while the oxygen, in which the carbon was dissolved, will again pass off, ready to form more *carbonic acid gas* for future growths. The peculiar properties of *carbonic* acid gas, and the manner in which it enters plants, will be more fully discussed in a future paper.

Oxygen is one of the components of water and of our atmosphere, and exists in plants under various combinations with the inorganic constituents.

Nitrogen is also a component of the atmosphere, and when combined with hydrogen, forms *ammonia,* the presence of which is necessary to the perfect health of plants. All the cereals contain large amounts of nitrogen, and the muscles of animals can only be formed by their food being fairly charged with this constituent. Nitrogen is sometimes called *azote,* and hence animal and other manures are called *azotised manures,* because they contain nitrogen.

The organic components of plants, then, in this view of the subject, are but four in number; and, in the state in which they may be used by plants, are always in the form of colorless gas, mixed with the atmosphere, and brought to the earth by rains and dews, for the use of plants.

It is also easily understood, that as nine-tenths of the weight of plants are of organic origin, their constituents are principally received from the atmosphere, and that the most important part of the farmer's art should be to arrest these *life-creating* elements on his own farm, instead of permitting them to pass on to the ocean, or remain unappropriated for the use of man. The addition of proper inorganic constituents, if absent from the soil, and its proper preparation and mechanical condition for the reception and retention of the necessary organic constituents, must, then constitute the farmer's study, and to this end a series of articles will be written.

All the various properties of carbon, and other parts of soils and plants, are foreign to our present purpose; and, therefore, those principles only which are necessary to a clear understanding will be treated of at this time.

(to be continued.)

From the Augusta Sentinel.

GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

We had the pleasure of being present at this great Exhibition at Macon, on Wednesday and Thursday last, and it was truly a great one; whether we view it in reference to the variety, or number of articles exhibited, or the concourse of persons present.

In the Stock department, the number and quality was indeed fine. Our enterprising citizens, Messrs. R. Peters, J.V. Jones of DeKalb, and J. B. Jones of Burke, made a fine display in cattle.

The Poultry department, we venture to say, has never been equalled in the South, and probably never surpassed in the North. We conversed with several gentlemen who had frequently attended Northern Fairs, and they assured us that they had never seen it equalled. In this department, our friends Redmond, of Atlanta, Collins, of Macon, and Dr. Battey, of Rome, were the principal contributors.

The exhibition of Machinery was indeed fine, particularly Engines. There were three fine Engines on the ground —one of them from Montgomery, Alabama, made by Gindrat & Co., which for high and beautiful finish surpassed any of the kind we ever saw.

But it was the Ladies' department that attracted the most attention and called forth the highest encomiums. It certainly was far superior to any thing of the kind ever exhibited in the South, and could not be excelled any where.

We were pleased to see so many inventions in Agricultural Implements. This shows that our people are studying out the process of how to "make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before." A full and detailed description of which, together with the premiums awarded, will be given by our correspondent in a few days.

A word as to the vast concourse in attendance, which was made up of citizens of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi and variously estimated on Thursday, the day we left, at twelve to fifteen thousand.

The receipts at the gate up to Thursday evening, had reached over three thousand dollars at twenty-five cents admittance, and the committee expected over $3,000 more from members of the Association and additional visitors.

The annual address of Judge Andrews, was in consequence of the rain on Wednesday, delivered on Thursday, which we regret we did not hear—as it was spoken of as a most practical and masterly production. Indeed, just such an one as every man familiar with his practical manner of treating all subjects and strong intellectual powers, anticipated.

The grounds were well chosen and admirably arranged, an engraving of which will accompany our detailed report.

Every thing seemed to be conducted in the best possible manner, and every one seemed to be highly delighted.

Licking County Fair.—Among the events which occurred at this Fair, the Ohio Cultivator gives the following:—The most exciting feature of the first day, was the competition for three premiums offered for ladies' riding horses. Three horses were entered. Misses Seymour and Marple, in elegant riding costume, at first led the ring with decided advantage. Miss Hollenbach followed, in a walking dress; but being a girl of true knightly grit, soon reined in her horse, and with a whip raised his mettle to a guage with her own, and then dashed forward, taking the inside, and such a wild Arab flight sober Buckeyes never saw before. On, on flew the beautiful steeds, and the thousands cheered heartily—the wind played the mischief with her petticoats, but her victory was complete. Then a series of evolutions, curvetings and *contra pas,* showed what country girls can do when they get the reins into their own hands. The premiums were awarded to the ladies by acclamation.

POLITICAL.

Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office.—We learn from this Report, that since the year 1832, 13 new States, embracing an area of more than 506,000,000 of acres, have been added to the Union, besides the Territories, containing 110,000,000 of acres. They both contain more than 1,400,000,000 of acres unsold land, rich in agricultural capacity or abundance of mineral.

The great valley of the Mississippi, now the center of the Republic, contains 8,000,000 of inhabitants, a great proportion of them being independent cultivators, while cities, towns and villages have sprung into existence with most unexampled rapidity.

The minimum price is $1 25 per acre, and the quantity excludes competition.

The sales of the public lands, since 30th June, 1850, and to the 30th June 1851, amount. to 1,846,847-40-100 acres; and the qurchase to 2,307,917-45-100.

The amount of land sold, during the first quarter of the fiscal year, commencing July 1st, 1851, was 493,150,65-100 acres, for which there has been received the sum of 601,691 01 100 dollars. The amount of land sold for the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year, was 266,879 66-100 acres, for which the sum of 349,876 06-100 dollars was received. The sales thus appear to be largely on the increase.

There are in operation several influences likely to augment the sales of the public lands.

Report of the Postmaster General.—The annual Report of the Postmaster General, Nathan K. Hall, is elaborate and able, giving a lucid idea of the operations of the Department for the present year. It appears from the Report that the inland service of the Department for the past year (excluding California and Oregon, which are imperfectly reported,) shows an increase of 13,354 miles in the length of mail routes; of 6,162,855 in the number of miles of annual transportation, and of $547,110 in the annual cost of transportation. The transportation in California for past year was 537,476 miles, costing $130,270.—In Oregon, 30,498 miles, costing $19,958.

The receipts from America and Foreign postage during the past year exceed those of the preceeding year by $907,610,79; or deducting the balances accruing to the British Post-office, $909,223 85—equal to 18 65 per cent, in American postage and 16½ per cent. on American and Foreign.

At the close of the fiscal year there were six Foreign Mail Routes of the aggregate length of 18,349 miles, annually transporting 651,206 mails. The annual transportation on three of these routes (which are under contract with the P. O. Department) is 190,592 miles, and at an expense of $400,000. The service on the other Foreign routes is under contract with the Navy Department, and that annual transportation thereon is 421,734 miles, costing $1,623,250.

There was quite a reduction in domestic postage receipts for the last quarter of the fiscal year, attributable to the near approach of the present cheap rates. In the formidable array of figures relating to the business of the Department for the past year, the following fact appears:—

Number of mail routes,	6,170
Length of mail routes, miles,	196,290
Number of contractors employed,	5,544
Annual transportation of mails, miles,	53,272,252
Annual cost of transportation,	$3,421,754
Miles of railroad transportation	8,568,707
Miles of steamboat transport'n,	6,454,082
Number of postmasters appointed,	5,339
Number of post offices, June 1'51,	19,796
Gross receipts of the Depart't,	$6,786,493
Total letter postage,	5,396,243
Newspapers, pamphlets, &c. do.	1,035,131
Ordinary revenue of the year,	6,551,978
Increase over that of last year,	999,006
Expenditures of the year,	6,278,402
Ordinary expenditures,	6,024,567

The Report presents a brief and interesting history of the Post-office Department for the past half century. The cost of mail transportation has largely increased during the past two years. New contractors for the North-western sections involve an increase of 25 per cent, in aggregate cost, and 104 per cent, in service while other contracts in the southern section, the extension of the Erie Railroad, increasing mail facilities on routes leading from the Atlantic cities to important points in the West, and upon western rivers; added to the placing of two steamers, the Franklin and Humbolt, on the New-York and Havre line, have all contributed to entail burdens on the revenues of the Department. The report in this connection urges more adequate and liberal provision for the compensation of Postmasters.

The subject of cheap postage is discussed at some length, and the Postmaster General thinks it unwise to attempt a further reduction of letter rates until such a measure shall be justified by the revenues of the Department; but is of opinion that the rates of postage on all printed matter may be rendered more uniform and just, and the less complex, by the adoption of different rates, without diminishing the revenues of the Department very materially.

The report refers to the opening of the new route via Lake Nicaragua. The contracts with the Cunard and Collins lines of steamships are referred to at some length. The subject of a postal communication between the United States and Mexico by a line of steamers from New-Orleans to Vera Cruz, via Tampico, is commended to the consideration of Congress. The conveyance of letters hither from Foreign ports, and thence to California, without delivery at the Post-Office is the subject of remark by the Postmaster General, in which the practice is deprecated, and it is recommended that the carrying of letters by express companies or private hands on mail routes or mail steamers be made a penal offense. The report urges the necessity of guarding the mails more effectually from robbery, refers to certain abuses of the Franking privilege, suggests improvements in the organization of the Department, and concludes by recommending a thorough revision of the laws affecting the Government and officers of the Post-Office Department.

Public Lands.—According to a paragraph in the National Intelligencer, the Commissioner of the General Land Office reports that twelve millions of acres of the public lands will be available for sale during the present year. The minimum price is $1,25 per acre; and while the quantity offered is so immense that it is placed beyond the reace and power of monopoly, the price is at the same time so small that every man of ordinary industry has the ability to provide himself with a homestead; and so long as Government offers hundreds of millions of acres for sale, at the price of about one day's labor for each acre, every man able to till the ground will have it in his power to become a freeholder.

The sales of the public lands since the 30th of June, 1851, amount to 1,846,847 acres, and the purchase money to $2,370,947.

Bangor, Maine, Dec. 5.

Seizure of Liquor and terrible and Fatal Affray.—The officers attempted to seize a quantity of liquor on board the steamer Boston to-day, when Captain Sanford and the crew of the steamer made resistance, and during the affray a man named Crane was mortally wounded. Sanford was subsequently arrested and held to bail in the sum of $5000. Crane died shortly afterwards, and Sanford was again arrested. The affray commenced at Frankfort and ended at Belfast. It is believed that another of the combatants will die, and that many others are seriously injured.

Three Children Burned to Death.—We are informed by the Coroner of this county, L. M. McLedon, Esq., that on Wednesday last he held an inquest on the dead bodies of three negro children, the property of Anna Bailey, daughter of Thomas B. Bailey, and grand daughter of Samuel Pratt. The Inquest was held at Hiram J. Pratt's 13 miles from Wadesborough. It appears that the mother of the children had left them but a short time when the house in which they were, was discovered to be on fire, but too far consumed to save the children as the roof was falling in, and the children clinging to each other in the back part of the house. They were burnt to a crisp.

The Jury, after being impannelled, inquired into the case and returned a verdict of accidental death by the house taking fire.—*N. C. Argus.*

☞The total receipts at the Crystal Palace, in London, were £470,000, and the total expenses £220,000; leaving a quarter of a million sterling, or over a million of dollars, as the nett proceeds of the concern.